Inmate Rights - Protection from Abuse

605.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to ensure that inmates are afforded a safe, healthful environment free from abuse, corporal punishment or harassment, and that inmate property is protected.

605.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office to make every reasonable effort to protect inmates from personal abuse, corporal punishment, personal injury, disease, property damage and harassment by other inmates or staff. Staff shall take reasonable actions to safeguard vulnerable inmates from others and shall use the classification policies and procedures to make housing decisions that will provide for inmate safety. Abuse of inmates by staff or other inmates will not be tolerated.

The Chief Deputy of Corrections or the authorized designee shall be responsible for including prohibitions against inmate abuse and harassment, rules regarding respect for the property of others, and the prevention of disease in the inmate handbook. All inmates shall be advised of the location of the inmate handbook during the booking process.

605.3 RESPONSIBILITY

It shall be the responsibility of all facility staff to adhere to policies, procedures and practices, and to make every reasonable effort to prevent inmate injury, harassment and abuse, to prevent theft or damage to inmate property and to eliminate conditions that promote disease. These procedures include, but are not limited to:

- Following the classification guidelines for inmate housing.
- Closely supervising inmate activities and interceding as needed to prevent violence, harassment or abuse of inmates.
- Using force only when necessary and to the degree that is reasonable.
- Reporting all inmate injuries, investigating the cause of reported injuries and documenting these efforts in an incident report.
- Enforcing all rules and regulations in a fair and consistent manner.
- Preventing any practice of inmates conducting kangaroo courts or dispensing discipline toward any other inmate.
- Conducting required safety checks of all inmate housing areas.
- Checking all safety equipment for serviceability and making a report of any defective equipment to the appropriate supervisor or Chief Deputy of Corrections.
- Referring sick or injured inmates to a qualified health care professional without unnecessary delay.

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- Maintaining high standards of cleanliness throughout the correctional facility.
- Documenting all abuse protection efforts in facility logs and incident reports as applicable.

605.4 TRAINING

The Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission is responsible for developing and delivering a training curriculum on the topic of protecting inmates from abuse to all staff.

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